

theless, in its original form, and in the various combinations and modifications produced during the last few years in cultivation, the red sunflower merely follows the path already well worn by other genera of Compositae, such as *Helenium* and *Gaillardia*. Just as in the orange and orange-brown forms of *Cheirinia*, it is simply a matter of the increase of anthocyan pigments. Characters of this sort frequently become diagnostic of species; or originating somewhere, being inherited in Mendelian fashion, produce a well-marked dichroic condition in a type previously nearly uniform. In the case of the red sunflower, "red" plants are already beginning to appear in various places about Boulder, the pollen having been carried from our garden by bees. It will be interesting to see whether, in a number of years, the "red" variety becomes established as a regularly occurring variation in the wild flora; and if it does so about Boulder, whether it will gradually spread over the plains. Such questions are certainly interesting and make it abundantly worth while to closely study and describe variations as they are found to occur.

#### SHORTER NOTES

*SCLEROCARPUS AFRICANUS* JACQ. IN AMERICA.—The composite genus *Sclerocarpus* is interesting as having its type species in tropical Africa and its others in warm temperate and tropical America. The object of this note is to record the occurrence of *S. africanus* Jacq. on the Island of St. Thomas, Danish West Indies, where a solitary plant was found on a sandy beach near Charlotte Amalia in February, 1913 (*Britton, Britton & Marble 483*); only one plant could be found after an hour's search of the locality, and it therefore seems probable that this is a waif.

N. L. BRITTON

✓ TWO NEW AMERICAN GRASSES.—*Schizachyrium curasavicum* sp. nov.

Annual. Stems 1–2 dm. tall, branched, glabrous; leaf-sheaths smooth and glabrous, keeled; blades up to 8 cm. long, 3–4 mm. wide, flat, linear, gradually narrowed above to an acute point, glabrous on the keeled lower surface, the upper surface sparingly

tuberculate-hirsute with long hairs; spathes 2-3 cm. long; racemes about 2 cm. long, the internodes oblique at the deeply cup-shaped apex, these and the pedicels appressed-hirsute with long hairs below on the back, the internodes long-barbate at the base; sessile spikelets 5-6 mm. long; first scale involute, appressed-hirsute with long hairs, long-acuminate, strongly 2-nerved at the apex, these nerves and the intermediate ones very faint below; flowering scale hyaline, delicate, cleft to below the middle, the awn 8-12 mm. long, the tightly spiral deep brown column about as long as the yellowish subula; pedicellate spikelet about 1.5 mm. long, with a scabrous awn about 3 mm. long.

Rocky hill, St. Joris Bay, Curaçao, Britton & Shafer, March 20-27, 1913, no. 3101.

**Lasiacis Harrisii**, sp. nov.

A branched perennial, of slender climbing habit, with long narrowly lanceolate leaf-blades and linear strict panicles. Stems slender, up to 5 m. long or more, smooth and glabrous; leaf-sheaths glabrous or sometimes ciliate, usually shorter than the internodes; ligule a scarious ring 1 mm. wide or less; blades narrowly lanceolate, 5-12 cm. long, 4-7 mm. wide, glabrous, rough on the margins, long-acuminate at the apex, erect or nearly so; panicle 3-6 cm. long, linear, strict, its branches short and appressed; spikelets 3.5-4.5 mm. long, the scales woolly-tipped, the first scale orbicular, obtuse, about one half as long as the spikelet.

At high elevations in Jamaica. Type collected in the vicinity of Cinchona by Delia W. Marble, Sept. 2-10, 1906, no. 222. Other specimens are: Below Cold Spring Gap, Harris 11,354; Mt. Faraway, Blue Mts., Harris 11,486; Strawberry Hill, Blue Mts., Harris 11,487; base of Catherine's Peak, Harris 11,552; Abbey Green, Blue Mts., Harris 11,587; no locality, J. P. 793, 819.

GEORGE V. NASH

BURNHAM'S FLORA OF THE SAND BARRENS OF SOUTHERN STATEN ISLAND.—In the last number of *TORREYA* the author of the paper under the above title gives an excellent presentation, with a very few exceptions, of the most interesting floral elements

peculiar to the southern end of Staten Island. Botanically he missed but little. His interpretation of the geology, however, is wide of the mark, and this is an important matter, for the reason that it is the geologic factor which must be taken into account in order to understand and appreciate the significance of the flora of the region. He mentions, for example, "the clay deposited here when the great Laurentian glacier moved down from the north." As a matter of fact the region is but little glaciated and over considerable areas there are no glacial deposits whatsoever. The clays which are such a prominent feature are Cretaceous in age and represent the northern extension of the Raritan formation of New Jersey. In other words this part of Staten Island is geologically and geographically a part of the coastal plain region of the mainland, which accounts for its peculiar and interesting flora.

Incidentally, also, the author is at fault in ascribing the presence of "salt-water clam shells" in the sandy upland as evidence "that at a comparatively recent period this portion of the Island was submerged." The clam shells represent old Indian "kitchen middens."

A. HOLLICK

SOME LEGAL BOTANY.—It was the peculiar privilege of the editor of *TORREYA* to be present at a trial in a supreme court in greater New York where the following testimony was given by a florist, suing a gas company for the alleged escape of illuminating gas into his greenhouses and the consequent destruction of thousands of carnations. For obvious reasons names are omitted.

Q. What peculiar appearance did the carnations have, or the carnation buds have, during the months of December or January heretofore mentioned?

A. Instead of opening, instead of the bud opening, the stamen came out of the calyx.

Q. What do you mean by the stamen? What is that?

A. Well, there is two little—

Q. Is that known as the style.

A. Yes, sir; some call it styles.

THE COURT: I confess I don't know anything about botany. "The stamen came out of the calyx." That is all Greek to me, sir. Then, in order to explain it he says, "The stamen means

the style," which made it a little worse. I know the word stamen and the word style, but I don't know what either of them mean.

Q. What do you mean by stamen, or styles?

A. Well, there is two little round—I really don't know—there is two little round—it is like a round cord that comes out of the seed pod, and that come out of the flower, or the bud, rather, refused to open.

THE COURT: What is the calyx?

THE WITNESS: The calyx is the part that holds the leaves together.

THE COURT: And this stamen came out?

THE WITNESS: Yes.

THE COURT: The stamen is the thing that blossoms and makes the flower?

THE WITNESS: No, the stamen is into the seed pod, and that came out, and of course, that was as far as it could go.

## REVIEWS

### **Coulter's Plant Life and Plant Uses\***

Coulter's *Plant Life and Plant Uses* seems to the reviewer unfortunate in implying in title and in the subtitle that it is in any peculiar way "a foundation for agriculture, domestic science, and college botany." If a proportionate discussion of such subjects as weeds, yeasts and bacteria, and economic uses and relationships of plants would "seriously impair the unity of organization which should characterize a foundational text" the misleading subtitle should be changed.

The combination of conversational style and a large number of technical terms seems unfortunate also. There have appeared recently several high school text books which are as broad in scope, and which present more satisfactorily the several styles or treatments which the author has endeavored to combine in this book. Atkinson's *Botany for Schools*, as a type of the strictly academic, is far superior. The chapter-end questions are much better done by Andrews in the *Practical Course in Botany*; the questions in that are really thought-producing, while Dr. Coulter

\* John Gaylord Coulter. *Plant Life and Plant Uses*. Pp. v-xvi + 1-464. f. 1-230. American Book Company, New York, 1913. Price, \$1.20.